

Serial No.: 09/506,361

Amendment and Response to Final Office Action

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, the fastener further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops and wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

18-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

33. (Previously presented) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve and wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

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34-53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)

55-58. (Canceled)

59-61. (Canceled)

62-68. (Canceled)

69-72. (Canceled)

73. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube, and A fastener according to claim 69, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

74. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube.

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wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body, and ~~A fastener according to claim 73,~~ wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

75-79. (Canceled).

80. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube, and ~~A fastener according to claim 69~~ wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.